

THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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Behind unused doors

By Adam Howe

Parkinson's Gymnasium: what is this building? It certainly is not FSC's athletic building. No students seem to have any classes in it and no professor's have their offices there. After careful thought one would realize there really is no use for the building as of right now except as a waste of precious parking space perhaps. Steve Lanciani, Vice President of Facilities Management, along with many other college officials, are trying to fix that.

As of the Fall 2000 semester, Parkinson's Gymnasium has been a non-factor as far as buildings go on the college campus. It has been talked about for years what the building may be turned into. Lanciani, who will be entering his twentieth year with Fitchburg State College this upcoming January, mentioned some probable ideas to be put into action in the near future.

As of now the building is being used as a "dead storage" facility. Mainly old equipment and furniture that was once in used in the gymnasium now sit and collect dust. Lanciani hopes that in the near future the building may be a "one-stop shop for student services."

Such services would include the registrar, disability services, career services, tutor center, and other services currently found on the third floor of the Hammond Campus Center. It was once thought that the building may be able to be renovated as a theatre, but with the theatre already in downtown Fitchburg, that idea was quickly thrown out the window.

Other offices currently found in



Present home of "dead storage" space- future home of student services?

Parkinson's, such as the environmental safety offices, and an office to help start up a new batch of computers for the campus, are already somewhat renovated. Other rooms, such as the old locker rooms have been stripped of the lockers and plans to strip some of the plumbing are in the works in order to make some long term storage facilities.

The school is not on its own when it comes to these renovations. It must go through DCAM (Division of Capital Asset Management), which is a body of the state that will ultimately allow or disallow the college to do any renovations to the building.

Lanciani is confident that the ideas of Fitchburg State will pull through. He works well with the Board of Trustees and interim president Michael Rivard, and has their support. It is believed that the cost to totally renovate the building, which would include knocking down unneeded walls, new carpeting, reworking some floors and ceilings,

and many other renovations, would cost above the figure of one million dollars.

The new renovations and the moving of previously mentioned offices would leave space open throughout the campus. The new space is thought to be used as new offices for professors who have inadequate offices as of right now, as pointed out by the state's accreditation board. The renovations are hoped to be started this upcoming summer and some major progress should be shown by the summer of 2004.

Parkinson's Gymnasium: once home to some great basketball games, a Run DMC concert, and a highly visible weight room has been in hiding for the past two years. Hopefully, with the help of Steve Lanciani and the rest of Fitchburg State College backing him up, it will once again be of use to the student body.

**It's official;
School can make
you go crazy**

(COLLEGIATE PRESS-WIRE)—College life has become increasingly stressful with students facing new pressures and life changes that can trigger serious mood swings. In fact, researchers report a significant rise in stress and mental illnesses, such as depression and bipolar disorder in young adults, as well as alarmingly high rates of suicide - now the second-leading cause of death among college students.

These factors may be of particular concern during final exams - a time when students are under intense pressure to complete projects and ace exams before breaking for the holidays. The intense stress during this period may exacerbate mood swings and, for the most vulnerable, even prompt suicidal thoughts. Students who have bipolar disorder may be most at risk.

Why? Bipolar disorder (also known as manic depression), is marked by extreme swings from high (manic) to low (depressive) mood and often begins in the late teens to early twenties - a time when many young adults are heading off to college and living away from home for the first time. Further, the stress that results from academic pressures may trigger mood episodes that can exacerbate bipolar disorder.

The reason? Some of the tell-tale signs of bipolar disorder - particularly the depressive episodes - often are misdiagnosed because some of the symptoms so closely mirror

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Letter from the Editor

I'm not a cynic. I'm a realist.

That was my former outlook on life. Although I always thought of myself as practical, my friends used to say that I could always find a way to turn a situation around to the negative. When someone would say something nice to me or do something for me, I thought it just meant they wanted something in return. In this regard, I've been called "frigid."

I expected to find a problem with everything. And I did.

Take, for example, this newspaper. I'd consume myself with all the errors and typos (yes, I do notice them, though most times not until after print), and I would feel that I had not done an adequate job. I chose not to understand that I was doing things to the best of my ability.

Likewise, I spent my days wondering what could go wrong instead of concentrating on how to make things good and cheerful. In projects and assignments I'd figure out all the ways I could fail, rather than realizing what I could learn. I'd adhere to Murphy's Law of "What can go wrong, will."

I guess you could say I had a stormy rain cloud right above my head.

This attitude made it easy to be the pained writer. I always had something to say, some long saga to depict in my words. When I became angry or upset, I'd start up my computer and plunk away at the keys until I felt justified in my negativity. I was so good at stirring up a drama in my mind that the words flowed like water down the Niagara. Who wants to write about all the happy stuff when often times, those words come out sound ridiculously cliché? Happy, sunshine, blah, blah, blah.

But the problem wasn't with everything else. Just me. Because I expected to find these problems, I did. That was my goal and I succeeded. My rain cloud wasn't something Mother Nature put there, I created it.

Perhaps I was afraid to look on the bright side of things. I was hesitant to acknowledge the positives because this would provide more of an opportunity for disappointment. You can't be kicked down if you're not too high up on the happiness scale. I'd steer clear of potential new friends by always being busy, figuring I'd just be let down in the long run.

Then something happened. A few things happened. First of all, I became tired of being pessimistic. It really does take a lot of time and energy to piss on everybody's parade. I'd go to bed wondering what kind of dreadful day I'd have in the morning instead of what great things could come out of a new day. I was always tired in the morning.

Then when I had been exceptionally of the 'glass is half empty' outlook, a good friend said, "Amy, what's wrong with you? You've been in such a crappy mood for a while." At first I was angry. I wasn't acting "crappy," I was just being practical. I was just taking the necessary precautions to ensure I would not be let down in the future, I thought. Little did I realize that I was becoming a bummer to be around.

Well that's not who I wanted to be. I had always enjoyed being the wise-cracking, sarcastic one of the bunch, but I didn't want to be the party pooper.

Around the same time, I met someone who made it impossible for me to frown on life. He makes me laugh even when I don't want to. With his help, I have come to live in a balance with my heart and my head. Now, it has become so difficult for me to take on the part of the pained writer. I'm so happy that I don't want to waste my efforts concentrating on all that

stuff. He makes it tough for me to keep my writing from sounding like that joyous, little bunny, cliché happiness.

But he couldn't take on my transformation by himself. I had to do it. I had to want to be optimistic. I have come to understand that though I can't always depend upon others to make the sun shine for me, I don't have to let them let me down. I can make my own happiness.

A true friend once said, "When you wear your heart on your shoulder, you're more likely to become bruised." Well I can recover from a bruise or two. That pain is a small price to pay for wiping away the dullness of my pessimistic attitude. Following the intentions of The Beatles' "Hey Jude," I've learned to take a sad song and make it better.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Bobrowski
Editor-in-Chief

THE POINT

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WRITERS THIS ISSUE

Tim Card	Paul M. Kelly
Pete Daoust	Kate Morales
Diana DiBattista	Kate O'Neil
Adam Howe	Jillian Places
Robin L. Kanter	Stephanie St. Jean

FACULTY ADVISER Doris Schmidt

CONTACT US AT point@fsc.edu **OR** 778 665 3647

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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'Judging Amy' falls below the bar

By Diana DiBattista

I, like millions of other people use TV s a down time between moments in my hectic life. I watch "Jackass" to kill a few brain cells, "The Late Show with Jay Leno" to get a few laughs, a Lifetime minidrama when I need a "God I'm glad that my husband isn't having sex with my daughter!" moment, and when I need that "don't want to think about anything" moment and just space out, I watch the preview guide for hours and hours.

Now I know you are probably thinking, "Damn she'll watch just about anything," but that's not true. Even this television junkie has her limit, and recently I came across a television show that crossed the line. I sat down one night two weeks ago to do some studying for a class. Before I had the TV in my room I used the radio as a distraction from what I was pretending to study, these days it's the TV. Well "Judging Amy" was on, and having never seen it I didn't really pay close attention. That is until I had to start reading about the development of music in 18th century Britain, any TV show is better than that, except this one.

The show is about a family court judge and the trials she faces both at work and with her own family. On this particular night's episode Amy was hearing a custody case between a father and the mother of his dead wife.

Plot: The mother blames her son-in-law for the death of his wife on, get this, September 11. Yes, let's blame the father, not the men who flew the planes into the buildings.

Well it gets worse. Not only was the grandmother blaming the father for his wife's death, but she was brain washing the child into thinking it too. And to top it off, there was a tape! Yes the father's cell phone had recorded his last conversation with his wife before the tower she was in collapsed. A decision is made to let the son hear the tape for himself. He learns that his mother made her own decision regarding her fate. Amy gives a nice soliloquy on how the attacks weren't anyone but the terrorist's fault, and in a nice little hour package everyone lives happily ever after, if only that were the truth.

Lived happily ever after-everyone except me, and the millions of people who either died or were affected by this tragedy. The show left me stunned and appalled. The people at ABC were clearly thinking with a part of their anatomy other than their heads when they thought that this would be a good source of entertainment. I can just see it now, "Yes, lets sensationalize and exploit the unnecessary deaths of thousands of people for the sake of a couple ratings."

Well Judging Amy isn't the only culprit is this appalling exploitation of America's tragedy. I did a little investigating and found that there are hundreds of people out there trying to make a

quick buck by "helping America remember."

Well Hello! Did you really think we were going to forget? That's like asking your mother or father where they were when Kennedy died and them saying, "You know I was at that parade but I just can't remember a damn thing about it." A quick phrase like "World Trade Center" or "September 11" into the amazon.com website came up with hundreds of books, C.D.s, video/DVDs, and even apparel. There was even a list of the top 25 9/11 books. (None rating below three out of five stars mind you.) Music stars like Bruce Springsteen and Alan Jackson have entire CD's tributed to September 11. It's even reaching the point where it is becoming a joke on shows like South Park. If anyone saw the "Ladder to Heaven" episode you know what I mean.

Frankly, it's sickening. I understand that people think they are trying to be sincere and have a genuine cause, donating profits to victims families and charities, but do you really think not a single penny accidentally slips in the pockets of someone from corporate America? This is capitalism at its worst. Everyone who has ever taken a politics or American history class learns about the rabid communist hunt there was during the cold war, well I'm starting to think maybe ultimate capitalism and the never ending desire to make a quick buck is the real red devil.

TOUR GROUP

BY KATE O'NEIL



The Point would like to make the following corrections from Issue #6:

The Black Light party was held in the Ground Zero Game room.

The FSC dining hall is named Holmes Dining Hall and catered by Chartwells. "Daka" is a nickname of the hall that has stuck since previous caterers.

Dale speaks promoting positive vibe

By Amy S. Bobrowski

Over 150 members of the FSC community and the surrounding areas were in attendance on Nov. 18 to hear James Dale speak in the M&M Lounge. "You could see people overflowing out of the M&M lounge. It was great," said FSC student Ashley Mederios.

Dale was barred from the Boy Scouts of America in 1990 after the organization discovered he was gay. Dale then sued the Boy Scouts for discrimination. He won the case in the New Jersey Supreme Court only to have the Federal Supreme Court rule against him by one vote. Though this was a discouraging decision for Dale, his message to others explains the importance of getting beyond these limits. "It's easy to focus on the negative," said Dale. "But a lot can change in your control."

Dale discussed the response of his coming out and the treatment and questions he received from family and friends. Dale fought with his father and hardly spoke to his mother for a year. Now, he explained, "They march in gay pride parades and are as outraged as I am about discrimination."

Dale has been bombarded with the question of when he knew he was gay. "It wasn't when I knew," said Dale. "It was when I became aware and accepted that part of me." The importance of acceptance is what Dale hopes to pass on to others with his speeches.

"His message was very positive," said Patrick Pho, FSC freshman and member of SGA. Dale's case generated major headlines across the United States, especially when one judge called him a sodomite and quoted the bible saying homosexuality is criminal and immoral. Though Dale did once take people like this seriously, he has learned to rise above these names and is working to protect young people from going through the same damage he did.

"When the Supreme Court ruled against me by one vote, I became pretty depressed. I failed to see the benefits, but if you stick by something, you'll see amazing results. Dale did stick by his beliefs and thinks that losing the case might have provided more opportunities to progress the civil rights movement than winning would have."

Discussing the duration of the all the court proceedings, Dale explained that he never would have imagined his case to take so long. Adding some humor to his speech, Dale said, "Now I'm known as the gay Boy Scout. I would have rather been the gay architect or something. I went from being a person to being a poster."



Ex-Boy Scout James Dale

Since his case, the Boy Scouts have lost many members, donations and funding from outside companies. Dale praised these individuals for their actions against the discriminative organization. Ironically, the Boy Scouts is the one place where Dale felt accepted. However, the overall mission statement of the organization has changed, explained Dale. "The Boy Scouts have defined themselves by discrimination. Don't let others define you by their limitations," advised Dale.

During his presentation, Dale asked the audience who had been a boy scout. He encouraged those that cared for civil rights to reconsider their membership. His goal is "not to destroy the Boy Scouts, but to make people decide where they stand on the civil rights issue," said Dale.

"You have to be an advocate," said Dale. "Don't work for a company, or be a part of an organization that discriminates. You have to value yourself to stand up." Although these words sound encouraging, some audience members were hesitant to agree that the Boy Scouts is a bad organization. Dale responded, "Even the youngest of children can understand discrimination. You don't have to explain to them what it is to be gay. Children don't need registration to use the handbook, but when you wear the uniform, you advertise for an organization that discriminates."

Dale even encouraged those who have been part of the organization to leave it off of their resume, as some companies view members of the Boy Scouts as an individual who could be a problem in a diverse atmosphere.

FSC sophomore Sam Lurie responds to Dale's thoughts, "What he spoke about was very worthy and I believe in civil rights, but he spoke very negatively about the Boy Scouts. As an Eagle Scout, I believe I learned a great deal from that involvement."

Concerning government support, Dale believes that society as a whole accepts and expects too little from our politicians. "The Supreme Court does not lead in social change. More people need to stand up," said Dale.

FSC professor, Joseph McAloon shares Dale's disgust. "It's absurd how organizations with politics cater to the small percentage of people who think a certain way."

Though students seemed to grasp the message from the presentation, some felt Dale's speech lacked organization. SGA President, Amber Keumurian said, "I was a little disappointed of the event. I had no problem with what he spoke of, but I feel he lost his focus."

Another student who wished to remain anonymous added, "Overall I like the presentation. I really liked the stories, but he seemed to lose himself in the political arenas."

McAloon added, "Dale's speech was human and informative, however the issues he discussed were complex. He investigated and forecasted economic, political, social, and judicial issues, and I found some disappointment because he lacked the depth and breadth of these issues in his talk."

However, there is no doubt that students went away more informed on the issue of personal rights. In the essence of his speech, Dale said, "I don't care too much about gay civil rights. I care about civil rights, period."

The Classes of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, Campus Living, SGA, Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Programs Committee, 1 in 10 and Friends, Student Activities, Campus Police, The Point and Celebrating Everybody's Differences sponsored Dale's presentation. One-in-Ten and Friends President, Melissa Seidenberg said, "I am very grateful for all the clubs, offices and organizations who supported us bringing Mr. Dale here. Attendance was great and I hope to bring more speakers like him in the future."

Finals Frenzy

Night times:

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 8am-10pm M and M lounge, Treasurer's Office Sundaes and Programs provide Root Beer Floats and free Mugs. Sumo Wrestling from Student Activities along with Massage Therapy and PPand J sandwiches.

Thursday, Dec. 12, 1 dollar smoothie night and cookies and hot chocolate. Sponsored by Chartwells Class of 2006 provides Stress Balls

Monday, Dec. 16, Campus Police provide a Bagel Extravaganza

Tuesday, Dec. 17, Student Affairs provides Hot Chocolate and Cookies.

All the above programs are from 8pm-10pm in the M and M lounge

Afternoon Programs--

1pm-3pm Financial Aid on Thursday Dec. 12

1pm-3pm Counseling Services Friday Dec. 13



Alternative Spring Breakers (left) work hard at their fund-raiser.

The ASB luncheon (right) was enjoyed by all.



Gaining alternative income

By Diana DiBattista

Fund-raising is well under way for this year's Alternative Spring Break. A luncheon was held Nov. 19 in the Underground Pub to help raise money to fund this year's trip. The luncheon, which featured a traditional Thanksgiving-style meal, raised \$1,000 for ASB.

This year's students will travel to Franklin, WV with Habitat for Humanity in March. There they will work alongside other volunteers and the family who will eventually move into the newly built home.

This is the fourth year the volunteer center at FSC has organized an alternative spring break. Last year's students joined up with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps build homes for families who otherwise could not afford them. Sign-ups for ASB filled in just an hour. The 30 students, including 11 repeat Alternative Spring Breakers, paid \$100 to participate. Jay Polonski

of the Volunteer Center said, however, "We are hoping to reimburse them." Although there is no specific goal for how much money the program hopes to raise, Polonski stressed, "The more the better."

In addition to the recent luncheon, ASB has several other fund-raises planned, including a poinsettia sale during the holiday fair. This idea is likely to be a success as ASB has already sold 70 poinsettias on preorder.

ASB will also raise funds every second and fourth Tuesday of every month until March at Papa Gino's on John Fitch Highway in Fitchburg. Twenty percent of sales on those nights will go towards ASB. A Valentine's dinner is also planned. Polonski said they are toying with other fund-raising ideas, and told people, "Keep your eyes open for more."

The money earned through fund-raising and corporate sponsorships will go toward various

expenses, including food, and lodging in a 60-bed dorm like facility while in WV, and the price of the bus to make the 12-hour drive to the site.

The Alternative Spring Break program has grown dramatically in size over the past few years. This year's participation has doubled from last year's. Polonski attributes this to past volunteers who talked up the program, creating an interest that Polonski calls "almost remarkable." Planning for this year's trip started almost immediately after students returned from South Carolina last year. With an interest list 60 people long, Polonski maintains the same type of immediate planning will be required for next year's trip. There is talk of either doubling the size of the program again, or perhaps even sending people to two separate locations.

Those interested in fundraising or participating next year should visit the Volunteer Center in the M&M lounge.

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School can bring mental sickness

Continued from page 1
 those of typical clinical depression (also called unipolar depression).

If left misdiagnosed or undiagnosed, bipolar disorder can have potentially devastating effects resulting in harmful behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse and suicide attempts. In fact, the suicide rate for bipolar disorder is three times higher than in the general population, with one in five people with the illness attempting suicide - most often during a depressive episode.

"Patients with bipolar disorder on average receive three misdiagnoses, and consult three to four mental health professionals over an 8-10-year period before learning the true cause of their illness," noted Dr. Joseph Goldberg, Assistant Professor of Weill Medical College of Cornell University. "Young adults who are under extreme stress and who have undiagnosed bipolar disorder may turn to drugs and alcohol to alleviate their symptoms, which can put them at an even greater risk of harmful events, such as suicide attempts. Given the pressures many

students feel during final exams, it is important that any young adult who is experiencing notable signs of changes in mood should seek professional help."

Some of the key signs and symptoms that might be exhibited by a person suffering from bipolar disorder include excessive energy, activity, restlessness, racing thoughts, rapid talking, sleep deprivation, irritability, persistent sadness, anxious, or empty moods, fatigue, feelings of hopelessness and thoughts of death or suicide.

According to Dr. Goldberg, "Any significant change in mood should be cause for concern, and young adults should take advantage of resources on campuses such as their college health center to help them through this particularly stressful period."

If you or someone you know is demonstrating potential signs and symptoms of bipolar disorder, please contact your college crisis center or a healthcare professional to learn more about this potentially devastating, yet highly treatable illness.



Your Holiday Shopping Guide

By Stephanie St. Jean

Wondering what to get your family and friends for the holidays? Well wonder no more! After reading this article you should have a few ideas of what they really want this holiday season.

Children

Price Range: under \$20

Bratz Dolls, Bob the Builder, Harry Potter: Chamber of Secrets Lego set, Galidor, Rescue Heroes, Batman, Power Rangers, Spider-Man, Lord of the Rings, Pokemon, Star Wars

Price Range: \$20-\$50

Chicken Dance Elmo, Leap Frog, Grow with me RC Rally

All Ages

Price Range: \$50-\$200

Play Station 2, Nintendo Game Cube, Microsoft X-Box, MP3 Player

Old Time Classics

Price Range: under \$20

Care Bears, Mr. Potato Head, Malibu Barbie
 (ALL OF THESE TOYS ARE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS YEAR)

Men/Women

Price Range: under \$60

Enchanted Wings Music Box

Clothing

Price Range: \$60-\$100

Key chain Camera

Gold Bear BG Tour V-81 Putter

Price Range: \$100

DVD Recorder

Pocket PC Phone

Portable DVD Player

I hope this helps you with your holiday shopping. Don't wait until the last minute! Happy shopping!

1st ANNUAL SPRING TALENT SHOW

The English Club and The Falcon Players are excited to co-sponsor the First Annual Talent Show to be staged in April of 2003. Eileen Hamm, President of the English Club is the director for this project. The Talent Show is open to anyone on campus (Faculty, Staff, and Students) and will include singers, dancers, comics, actors, and musicians. If you have a talent and wish to be considered for a spot in this show, prepare your audition piece over the winter break.

Auditions will be held in January when students return to FSC for Spring Semester. Watch for details about dates, times, and locations of auditions. If you are interested in working behind the scenes doing technical work on the show, please contact Eileen. If you have any questions or suggestions, please notify Eileen Hamm through campus mail at mailbox 3040.

Good Lord that was funny

By Amy S. Bobrowski

"I like doing college performances better than others for several reasons. You guys are usually sober, and you go out of your way to make artists feel welcome," said comedian Leighann Lord.

Lord, who has been on Comedy Central, HBO and The View, performed in the Underground Pub on Nov. 21. Geared toward her crowd, Lord made many jokes about college and financial troubles.

"Have you noticed that tuition always goes up, but never goes down? How come there's never a sale on tuition. Buy a degree and get your Ph.D. at half price," wondered Lord. "Forget the degree, I want to run the book store. You buy the books for \$200 and only get \$3 when you return them. I'd like to be the one to pocket all that change," joked Lord.

Lord, born and raised in Queens, NY, can do more than just comedy. The beauty has done a commercial for Lean Cuisine, while her friends joke that she's never had to eat the stuff. Lord has also appeared as an extra on the daytime soap



opera, "All My Children," and said she would love to do more T.V. acting, perhaps in a sitcom.

Lord also was part of a USO tour this summer, performing in the Middle East. Although it was very satisfying to be able to do something like that, Lord said she wouldn't want to go back because of their bugs. "Their flies don't land on you; they bump into you," Lord said.

The comedian proved she has what it takes to keep the audience laughing at jokes dealing with

love, money and clothes. "I think the reason why men are hard to understand is because men express love differently than women. Men express love when you are walking on the street and they don't know you," Lord joked in reference to some strange catcalls.

Lord related to her audience by discussing her hatred for paying bills. "By now, I owe Visa a kidney. Some people use drugs. I use plastic," she said. Lord even found an excuse to delay paying her bills. "I don't open any of my bills any more with the Anthrax scares that are going on. It could be Visa, or it could be Anthrax. I'm not going to risk it."

The topic of bills lead to what Lord spends her money on: Clothes. "When did the juniors department become Whores 'R Us?" asked Lord. "No wonder there are no coming out parties any more. It's already all out there."

Leighann Lord provided a night of laughter for the crowd who made it to the Underground Pub. She didn't joke about college students she joked with the students.

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MRA and ICBA member

Jackass lacks plot, but gives laughter

By Paul M. Kelly

When Gene Kelly and Clark Gable were making movies, I doubt they ever imagined that they would be sharing their medium with Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O and the rest of the "Jackass" gang. "Jackass: the Movie" is the story of the criminally insane and what happens when a studio gives them five million dollars to make a movie.

"Jackass" originated on MTV in 2000 and quickly grew in popularity, skyrocketing the show's stuntmen of star status. The difference between the television show and the movie is the extravagance of the stunts performed. While the stunts featured on the TV version of "Jackass" are more self-destructive, the movie features the guys reeking havoc on everyone from a rental-car salesman to unsuspecting golfers to the people of Japan.

You will likely have one of two possible reactions to seeing this movie: You will either be totally horrified and disgusted, or you will never have laughed harder in your life. If you can forget the bad influence these men are having on children who may see "Jackass," then you will probably be able to enjoy these idiots shooting themselves in the stomachs with police beanbags or shocking each other with a muscle stimulator.

The star of the film is the irrepressible Johnny Knoxville. His work on the TV show has allowed him to step into respectable acting roles in such movies as "Big Trouble" and "Men in Black II." Knoxville introduces the film with his line, "Hi, I'm Johnny Knoxville, and this is Jackass," and is prominently featured on all advertising for the movie. Knoxville, whose real name is Phillip John Clapp, is joined in his mayhem by Steve-O (Stephen Gilchrist Glover), Bam Margera (Brandon C. Margera), Partyboy



(Chris Pontius), Wee Man (Jason Acuna) and several other jackasses.

"Jackass" may be more suitable for home viewing; the transition to film was not a smooth one. The nature of "Jackass" is to put not only the stars, but also the cameramen and equipment, in the line of fire during stunts. Cameras go crashing to the ground just as often as performers, so if "Jackass" was to upgrade to more expensive cameras, they would be risking a lot.

The compromise was an opening and closing segment shot in the same manner as most movies. The opening scene shows the entire "Jackass" crew riding an explosive-laden street, in an oversized shopping cart. The closing scene looks into the future of "Jackass" with "Son of Jackass: 2064," and presents the guys as shriveled up, yet still active, old men.

The problem with "Jackass" is that it feels more like a 90-minute television show than an actual movie. While you will laugh hysterically through almost the entire 90 minutes, the lack of a plot sours the movie-going experience. Even the worst Rob Schneider movie makes an attempt to tell a story, but "Jackass" simply presents random stunt clips with no apparent correlation.

An opinion completely 'Justified'

By Kate Morales

Justin Timberlake's new CD, "Justified" was released on Nov. 5. Timberlake's much-anticipated solo debut features 13 tracks and has guest appearances by Pharrell, Clipse, Timberland, Janet Jackson, and Bubba Sparxx. If you want to hear soulful ballads, excellent beats, and amazing lyrics, then this might just be the CD for you.

Timberlake's new release is different from his normal work. For those of you who don't know, Timberlake is a member of N*SYNC. This 21-year-old has been with the boy band since 1996. They have recorded many number one songs, such as "Bye, Bye, Bye," "Dirty Pop," and "Tearing Up my Heart." After tremendous success with N*SYNC, this teen heartthrob is stepping into manhood with a new chiseled look and a new album to accompany it.

The album's overall feel is a mix of Brian McKnight and Michael Jackson. Timberlake uses his incredible voice to mix R&B beats with soothing lyrics. All the tracks are great, but there are a few that



stick out. "Like I Love You," the second track, has a great beat, and features rap from Clipse. This was Timberlake's first released song of the album. "(Oh No) What You Got" and "Cry Me a River" are also incredible. Timberland is present in both tracks, and contributes some of his unique beats and sounds. The last song on the album, "Never Again," is a love ballad. This song shows the beautiful voice that Timberlake has. Mostly, the tracks on the CD are slow-paced soulful songs.

This CD is excellent. I was hesitant to spend \$15 on it, for fear it would be horrible. To my surprise, it is the complete opposite. "Justified" is definitely a hit.

Presidential Search Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2002

Location: Miller Oval

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Years of entertainment with Law & Order

By Kristine McCaffrey

NBC's show "Law & Order" is television's longest running current drama. For those of you who have been living on the moon for the past 13 years and are not one of the 18.7 million viewers, you're missing out on a fantastic show.

This summer I spent a great deal of my summer nights watching "Law & Order" on Court TV, A&E and the show's home station on NBC. I believe it was time well spent and I am now known throughout my dorm as a huge L&O fan. Most female FSC students have pictures of Vin Diesel or Josh Hartnett on their cork boards. I have a picture of the cast of L&O. I have the instrumental theme song memorized and I am known to hum it periodically throughout the day.

Why am I such a L&O freak? The show is different than any other show on TV. The first half, of the hour show appearing on Wed. nights at 10 p.m., deals with police detectives investigating a homicide. The second half shows what the district attorneys do in prosecuting the criminal(s).

Not only is the show informative about the law and police work, but it is also extremely entertaining and deals with current event issues. Often times, L&O has storylines based on what's going on in the news. An example of this is the episode, in which, the cast investigates the disappearance of a Washington intern who has been having an affair with a person in politics. Does this sound like the Shandra Levy story? I think it does. It is a smart drama that blows reality shows out of the water.

Jerry Orbach (you teeny boppers will remember him as the father in the movie "Dirty Dancing") plays a detective with intelligence and extreme wit. E. Epatha Merkerson plays a tough and wise police lieutenant who tells the men in her precinct what to do. There couldn't



be a better role model for women. Not to mention the actors that play the attorneys on the show. Sam Waterson and Elizabeth Rohm play hard hitting prosecutors who explain and teach the law to viewers while in and out of the court room.

The show has also spawned three other L&O shows. There is now a "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit", which is in its 4th season. It airs on Friday nights at 10 p.m. and usually deals with weird or unheard crimes that happen to children, the elderly, or even people with mental or physical disabilities. Then there is "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" which is in its 2nd season and airs on Sunday nights at 9 p.m. "Crime & Punishment" which aired this past summer, but will be back in the near future. It dealt with real life criminal court trials and hearings. No acting here.

The original L&O show won an Emmy Award in 1997 for outstanding drama series and holds the record for most consecutive Emmy nominations (11). It is the longest running police series and the second longest drama series in the history of television.

So some night when you're in between studying for a test, writing a paper or waiting to go out, turn on NBC and watch one of the "Law & Order" shows. You'll be entertained and educated while watching. I'm more partial to the original show, but you might want to decide for yourself.



Harry Potter back for more

By Stephanie St Jean

Harry, Ron and Hermione are causing mischief again at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Their second year at Hogwarts, they have a joyous reunion and bond right away like they were never apart.

Something, however, had almost prevented Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) from even getting to Hogwarts. This something was a house-elf, named Dobby. His efforts to keep Harry away failed, and once Harry got to Hogwarts, terrible things started to happen. Students were turning up petrified, like ancient mosquitoes in sap, and warnings were written on walls in blood. Rumors flew around the school that the Chamber of Secrets had been opened and by whom. Harry then made it his duty to find out who it was with the help of his friends Ron and Hermione.

"Chamber of Secrets" is a movie for all ages and magic lurks around every corner. A little darker than the previous "Harry Potter" movie, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone", "Chamber of Secrets" plays to a much more mature audi-

ence, not the the 6 year-olds that made the first one so successful. With scarier effects and a generally scarier storyline, "Chamber" gives you goosebumps.

Two new "shady" characters join the cast this time around are self-absorbed Gilderoy Lockheart (Kenneth Branagh) as the Professor of the Dark Arts, and Lucius Malfoy (Jason Isaacs), father of Draco, a Slytheren House member.

Sadly a few weeks prior to the release of "Chamber of Secrets", actor Richard Harris, who played the role of well-loved Albus Dumbledore, died to a battle with hodgkin's disease. Leaving is loveable empty to the future sequels. No replacement has yet been announced.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban", the next sequel to the series of books is due in theaters in 2004, while "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is due in theaters in 2005.

In conclusion 'Chamber of Secrets' is a must see, no matter how old you are. The magic will leave you feeling like a kid again, and you will probably want to see it a few more times.

FEATURES

Masspirg scavenger hunts reveals good times

By Tim Card

On Sat., Nov. 16, eleven brave souls ventured into Leominster State Forest for a Masspirg scavenger hunt. The intrepid students split up into two groups, braving cold air, rugged trails and snow to hike over five miles through the woods. The trails went through three different towns: Westminster, Princeton and Leominster.

The first team of students included Allison Orecchio, Kelly Hinds, Brittany Davis and Amanda Hamel. Led by Clint Talbert, our enthusiastic Masspirg coordinator, they hunted for 16 eggs containing questions, which ranged from local environmental issues to wilderness survival. They saw such points of interest as a lightning struck tree, a *ghost* tree carved by woodpeckers and a cellar hole left over from the 1800's. The only point of interest they missed was a 2000-pound rock, which somehow seems to have been rolled uphill, right out of its hole. In spite of losing a mitten and slipping on trails, Clint's team had a great time.

I led the second group through a course, which included an abandoned porcupine den and a safe left behind from a bank heist, sometime around a hundred years ago. We also explored a pair of cellar holes from the time when this land was populated with settlers. The students in our group were Stephanie Renaud, Robin Kanter, Dawn Wheeler, Meghan Cronan and Amanda Albeke. We had a great time, and the group was very good at figuring out cryptic clues about where the eggs were hidden. They had a lot of fun singing, joking and finding clues. We even repatriated the missing mitten.

Besides looking for eggs and learning about the history of the area, the students helped to pick up trash and recyclables. We kept score for finding objects from our list and for correctly answering questions. Both groups scored very well, with over 160 points out of a possible 190. We were all glad that we seized the moment to enjoy the outdoors one more time before the winter, though the snow made it seem like winter was already upon us.

Leominster State Forest is a great place for hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing. It was once called Notown, because it was independent from all of the surrounding towns and cities. People there didn't pay any taxes, but they struggled to survive, by rais-



A brave soul digs deep into the tree hole to find an egg.

ing animals, gardening and growing apple trees. There were once eleven families here, but now there are only cellar holes, forests and dirt roads.

Masspirg is a student organization, which works for many public interest causes. Current Masspirg campaigns include Hunger and Homelessness, America's Environment at Risk, and Genetically Engineered Foods. Students are welcome to contribute campaign ideas.

Noteworthy Masspirg events include Hunger Cleanups, Food Drives and River Cleanups. We also get special discounts when we go to national events, such as recent summits in Philadelphia and New Jersey. The Massachusetts Legislature tried to prevent students from funding Masspirg last summer, because we supported the Clean Election Initiative. Luckily, we were able to convince the Governor to veto that plan.

Members of Masspirg have the unique opportunity to make the world a better place. The great thing about this organization is that it gets results. We were successful in our attempts to block Arctic drilling, and we have been fighting to protect our state parks and drinking water. We recently held events to help feed and clothe the homeless in Fitchburg and Gardner. If you want to learn how to get things done, Masspirg is a great place to start.

Because the students enjoyed this year's hike so much, we are planning to go on another one in the spring. If anyone is interested in joining Masspirg, leave a message at the Masspirg office. The office is in the hallway to the left, at the far end of the Commuter Café.



Breast Cancer book donated to library

By Pete Daoust

The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library has a brand new addition to its book catalog. "A Breast Cancer Journey: Your Personal Guidebook" is the latest addition to the collection of informational material carried by our school's library.

The book was donated to FSC by the American Cancer Society in hopes that students who are family members to breast cancer patients may find strategies for coping and supporting their loved ones. The guidebook will also be a useful tool for the nursing program, as it provides resources and information on support services that young nurses will be able to share with patients.

The book was presented by Susan Balducci, RN, BSN, MSN, NP, who is a graduate of FSC & UMass Medical School's graduate program of nursing. Balducci is a breast cancer survivor and volunteers at the American Cancer Society. Balducci works at the Urgent Care Center at UMass Memorial Health Alliance Hospital on the Burbank campus.

The book was provided free of charge to patients through the Reach To Recovery peer support program by calling 1-800-ACS-2345, or by contacting the American Cancer Society through their website at www.cancer.org. The FSC copy of the book can be found on the reserve list at the library's main desk.

Thanks for the donation go out to Karen-Lee Murray of the American Cancer Society, Sue Balducci, and Fitchburg State employees Jay Polanski, Cindy Flynn, Denise O'Connell, and Pete Daoust. Also thanks go out to Robin Toft-Klar for making an appearance.

Lasers shoot down fluttering Falcons

By Orlando Claffey

Ja' Quaine Coe had never played point guard. Four games deep into the 2002-2003 season, The Fitchburg State Falcons had yet to see the winning side of a game. They have been outscored an average of 15 points a game; and with the loss of their veteran point guard, cutting that gap seemed slim.

The Lasell Lasers were just the opposite; the team was carrying a 3-1 record into the game on the shoulders of their big frontcourt and looked to roll over the hapless Falcon team.

FSC came out shooting in the first half, hitting 44 percent of their shots from the field, but missed all nine of their three point attempts. Fouls also hurt the birds, with Lasell reaching the line 15 times, only missing three.

Joe Howell provided the spark early, as the senior big man pick off a few of the Laser's passes and converting them into green points. He and Matt Costello held their own under

the basket, giving the Falcons some early offense in the face of Lasell's strength. Heading into half-time Fitchburg was down by six, 33-

27.

"Both teams were really sloppy," said Head Coach Jack Scott, commenting about the poor play in the first half. "Both teams had 15 turnovers, there were millions of mistakes and there were plenty of missed shots."

Lasell continued the assault in the second frame, taking their lead to over 10 points within minutes, but it wouldn't last long. Fitchburg's press, which they had been using all game, finally started to pay off. Led by Coe and guard Hakim Johnson, the Falcons picked several Laser passes and forced Lasell to work for each possession. They quickly worked the deficit down to three with only six minutes left.

The Falcons got help from the bench down the stretch, with Rashad Cope scoring ten points in the game, and was a strong presence on defense. The Falcons held strong, with Coe running the offense, and being a pest on defense to the opposing ball carrier, but Lasell was able to battle back. Within a minute, they had regained a nine point lead.

FSC mounted another attack in

the waning minutes led by Howell,

who ended the game with seven steals,

but they couldn't get closer than five.

The Lasers hit a few final complementary foul shots, and won the game 82

- 74.

"A lot of players are living off the accomplishments of last year," said Scott. The team was feeling good entering this season, but they have come down to reality. This is the best the team has played all season and it is something the Falcons can build off of.

Howell was the top scorer for Fitchburg, even though he fouled out in last seconds, with 13 points. Costello had 12 on the night, Johnson had 11, and Ryan Roy and Cope both had 10. Coe, making his first start of the season, had nine points, two steals and was the focal point of this Falcon defense.

"He just brings so much intensity to this team," said Scott. "He did a perfect job in a new role, and was solid when we needed him."

The Falcons first MASCAC game is January 14 versus Worcester State.



Ryan Roy gets fouled as he attempts a layup during FSC's game versus Lasell. The Falcons were more often on the giving end of fouls, awarding the Lasers 15 free throws in the first half alone.

Photo by Orlando Claffey, Point sports

Hockey Topple Framingham

By Robin L. Kanter

On Saturday December 7, the FSC hockey team faced Framingham State College at the Wallace Civic Center for a conference game, and the Falcons walked away winning 9-2. Fitchburg State College started strong with a goal in the first five minutes of the game by Robert Zapf, who was assisted by Sebastien Corbeil and Steve Carkin.

Fitchburg State came back again shortly thereafter with a goal by Sebastien Corbeil and assists by John Gambale and Greg Horan. With minor penalties between both teams, the action stayed low until the last two minutes of the game where Fitchburg came away with another goal from Bill Burns; Chris McNeil assisted. Fitchburg and Framingham State fought it out for the first period with many penalties given to both teams. At the end of the first period, the score was 3-0, Fitchburg.

The Falcons held the lead into the second period. Fitchburg came away with a goal by Shane Coleman, on a shorthanded play. Framingham, however, came back with a goal by Matt Anderson and an assist by Steve Tocci. The score was now 4-1 Fitchburg. Fitchburg State's Lucas Colburn scored again before the period ended. Assisting on the play was Rob

Saphow and Bobby LeBlanc. FSC now had the lead 5-1. The third period was right around the corner.

Within the first two minutes of the third period, FSC scored again bringing the score up 6-1. Mike Savastano scored with an assist by Matt Anderson. This was a power play goal for Savastano. Dan Richard scored for Framingham, bringing their goals up by one. That would be the last goal Framingham scored for the night. With 13' minutes left in the game Bill Burns came away with his second goal of the night. He was assisted by Chris McNeil and Craig Martin. Sebastien Corbeil also scored his second goal of the evening. Chad Fletcher and Robert Zapf assisted him. Minor penalties were awarded to both teams this period. With 56 seconds left in the game, FSC came away with one more goal. Chris McNeil scored his seventh goal of the season and was assisted by Greg Horan.

Brian Greely was the goalie for Framingham State College. He had a total of 28 shots on him and allowed in nine. Jason Holt was the goalie for FSC and stopped 20 out of the 22 shot on him. The stars for tonight's game were Bill Burns, Sebastien Corbeil, and Robert Zapf, all from FSC.

know there is the possibility of being cut from the team. This is a valid expression. How often do you here I was cut from the club. That just sounds pathetic. Almost like the effort was not there, or sorry but you have two left feet.

What is worst from being cut from dance club as a freshman? How about being cut from dance club as a sophomore. There is a catch to this, as there is a catch to everything. Many of the sophomores who were cut were in the club last year. Now I went to the show and I thought every act was amazing. How can you tell me that these people were cut because dramatically worse. I say if you know the instructor, you are a shoe in for a spot in that dance. However, ironically, none of the instructor's friends seem to be cut. Coincident, I think not.

I know people, where dance is life. I have even heard of people coming to Fitchburg State College because of such that great response to the dance club. Nevertheless, why should anyone be cut.

Now I know that I am standing on my soapbox complaining about something that is petty, but when all the clues come together maybe, it is not as trivial as I make it. The dance club should include everyone. No exceptions. You want to become the Dance Team that is fine, I will not get into your way, but when you get people from a "Club" well then something needs to be done. I would say don't go to their show in April, but as always I know at least a couple of people in the show and I will go to support them. However, maybe just maybe next year when the clubs and organizations are advertising to sign up for their club, a couple of people may agree with me that Dance Club should be called the Dance Team.

If you have any responses to this article, please email Pointsports@hotmail.com.

Club = Team continued from page 12

Lady Falcons shoot their way to a win

By Orlando Claffey

The Lady Falcons have started the season slow, having won only one of their first four games this season. Their only win, coming the second game of the season against Connecticut College, was a blowout, with FSC winning 74-45. Since then, The Falcons have played well, but dropped their next two games.



Photo by Orlando Claffey, Point sports

Trying to curtail a prolonged losing streak, the women looked to cook their next opponent, Johnson & Wales, in a non-conference game at the Recreation Center December 5.

The Falcons took advantage of poor Wildcat shooting early, as Samantha Sweeny and Ashley Mussig pulled down four defensive rebounds each, spurring FSC's offense. Led by Meredith Cipriani post play and Katie Redican's three point shooting, the Falcons gave themselves a seven point lead over the Wildcats heading into halftime. Unfortunately, that margin wouldn't last long.

"We have struggled all season during the first five minutes of the second half," said Walter Paschal, Head Coach of the Women's basketball team. "They came out aggressive and it gave us a lot of trouble."

The Wildcats quickly made up the deficit, and then took the lead, capitalizing on 11 missed three point attempts by FSC in the half. With less than five minutes, Johnson & Wales had a seven point lead and were trying to hold it under Falcon pressure.

With their defense kicked up a notch, FSC stormed back with tough rebounds and clutch free throw shooting. Down by two, Jen Fontaine hit two from the penalty stripe to tie the game at 59. The Falcons pressed the Wildcats immediately, but Courtney Kelly was called for reaching, giving the

Samantha Sweeney goes over a Johnson and Wales defender to take a shot.

visitors a chance at the foul line.

The Johnson & Wales player was only able to drain one of her shots, and play continued. Both teams had opportunities to score, but neither was able to do so until Sweeny stole an errant Wildcat pass and was fouled. Down by a point with 28 seconds left in the game, the sophomore forward from Haverhill hit both shots to give the Falcons a one point lead.

The Wildcats had one last shot but missed. Cipriani was able to tip the rebound out to Kelly Gomes at the top of the key to secure an FSC victory.

"We played tough defense down the stretch," said Paschal. "The team wouldn't quit and stepped up with some big foul shots at the end. Free throws have killed us all season."

The Falcons glowed at the line, shooting 74 percent in the game, which helped to overcome a horrible second half in the field. Redican led the way on offense, scor-



Courtney Kelly lunges for a ball traveling out-of-bounds. She wasn't able to save the ball, but she was the guiding force for the Falcons in their win over Johnson and Wales

ing a team high 11 points, with both Cipriani and Fontaine netting 10 in the 63-60 victory.

The Lady Falcon's first MASCAC game is January 14, against Worcester State.

Club = Team? Points and Opinions

By Jillian Places

When does a club become a team? One of the biggest clubs here at FSC is the Dance Club. With over 100 members, the club stays quite active, with two dance shows at the end of the year, and a dance-a-thon at the end of the fall semester. However, for the dance club here, when is it right to cut willing participants.

At the beginning of the year, the dance club

holds auditions for those dances that have an exuberant number of people. Now I thought if something was called a "Club," not cuts were involved. Granted you cannot have a 100 people on one stage dancing, but why not have two classes, so that everyone can dance. People with very good dancing ability were cut from Jazz three, Latin, and Street Funk. These are just a couple of dances people were cut from.

Now I know that the Student Government Association, (SGA) does not fund the Dance Club because they do make cuts, but I think that they should change their name to Dance Team since they do. Soccer, Hockey, and Football all have cuts, why not dance. That way when people go to try out, they

Continued on Page 11

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